(a) whether it is a fact that a number of State Governments have asked the World Bank for financial assistance for their nationalised bus transport systems during the last five years;

(b) if so, what are the names of the States which have sought such assistance;

(c) whether the World Bank has stipulated conditions for the grant of these loans; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) During the last five years, Government of India has obtained World Bank group assistance for only one transport system viz. the Calcutta Urban Transport Project. In addition to this, there is a transport Component in the Second Madras Urban Development Project also.

(c) and (d) Under the provisions of both these Agreements, the Government of West Bengal and the Government of Tamil Nadu are required to carry out or cause the implementing authorities to carry out the project with due diligence and efficiency and in conformity with appropriate administrative, financial and engineering practices and are required to provide as needed the funds, facilities, services and other resources for the purpose.

Airport near Arakonam for Defence Services

1439. SHRI T. THANGABALU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was any scheme under Government's consideration in 1977 to have a defence airport near Arakonam in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, what are the details of the expenditure incurred on this project so far; and

(c) the stage at which the project stands now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) So far, an expenditure of Rs. 5.63 lakhs has been incurred for the preliminary works like soil investigations, survey of the area, temporary services/accommodation etc.

(c) The development plans of the Airport are being finalised.

HRA Allowance to Employees Posted at Mahe

1440. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Pondicherry has since issued the Dependency Certificate and sent it to the Central Government recommending grant of House Rent Allowance to Government employees working in Mahe (Pondicherry);

(b) if so, whether Government have issued any orders for grant of HRA to Government employees posted in Mahe; and

(c) if not, by when the said orders are likely to be issued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

Eviction of Civilian Employees of Defence Department Danapur

1441. SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any memorandum from Bihar State Defence Employees Union, Danapur Cantonement regarding alleged threats of eviction of civilian employees of Defence Department from their houses; and

(b) whether Government are taking any steps to stay these evictions till alternative arrangements are made to allot residential accommodation to the affected employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Allotment of Defence pool accommodation in Danapur was made in

favour of Defence civilian employees when surplus service accommodation was available, with the specific stipulation that this accommodation may be required to be vacated at one month's notice if it is required for accommodation entitled service personnel. With the raising of a new regiment at Danapur the requirement of accommodation for entitled personnel increased and hence notices were issued to Defence civilian employees to vacate the premises. A writ petition filed by the Bihar State Defence Employees Union on behalf of the affected employees was also dismissed by the High Court of Judicature at Patna in November, 1983. However, on humanitarian grounds, the Station authorities allowed the Defence civilian employees to continue to occupy the acommodation till 10th January, 1984. The individuals are being evicted under due process of law. The civilian Defence employees are not entitled to allotment of Defence pool accommodation as a part of the terms and conditions of their service.

World Bank Loans

1442. SHRI M. P. KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount of loans so far received by India from the World Bank; and

(b) what is the percentage of such loan received in respect of Agriculture, Rural Development and Energy sectors?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The total amount of loan/credit approved by the World Bank group to India upto 30th June, 1984 is of the order of US dollar 19,845 million. Of this the loan/credit approved by the Bank group for Agriculture and Rural Development Sector is 13.6 per cent and for the Energy Sector is 30.2 per cent.

Supply of essential commodities to Government employees at reasonable prices instead of D.A. payments

1443. SHRI JERLIE E. TARIANG: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to make available all essential commodities to the employees of Central Government and Public Uudertakings and their families at fixed and reasonable prices instead of paying D.A. instalments in future in case the cost of living index continues to rise; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposals drawn up in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): (a) and (b) At present there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to make available all esential commodities to employees of the Central Government and Public Sector Undertakings and their families at fixed and reasonable prices instead of paying D.A. instalments for increases in the Consumer Price Index. However, some essential commodities at controlled prices through Fair Price Shops are already available to employees of the Central Government and Public Sector Undertakings along with others in areas covered under the public distribution system.

Defence Services Pensioners

1444. SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of defence services pensioners at present in the country; and

(b) when did Government last quantity the number of such pensioners?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) The number of Defence Services pensioners according to the statistics compiled as on 1-4-1984 is 12.93 lakhs.